

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 IO-13 SAB-02 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02

AGRE-00 /114 W

-----181722Z 113579 /43

R 181442Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4461

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BY FONMIN P.J. PATTERSON MARCH 15
TO PARLIAMENT

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE TO PARLIAMENT BY
FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON MARCH 15:

BEGIN QTE:

MEMBERS OF THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE WILL BE AWARE THAT
A NEW PRESIDENT ASSUMED OFFICE IN WASHINGTON TOWARDS THE
END OF JANUARY. THIS GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO MAKE DIRECT
POLITICAL CONTACT WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AT FIRST HAND,
WITH A VIEW TO PURSUING THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE
SO LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
JAMAICA.

I MET WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. CYRUS
VANCE, ON THURSDAY MARCH 3 AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE THE
SUBJECT OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN
ISSUED. THE SECRETARY AND MYSELF WELCOMED THE
OPPORTUNITY THAT THE MEETING OFFERED, FOR REVIEWING
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THE STATUS OF OUR RELATIONS, AND WE RECONFIRMED THE
IMPORTANCE WHICH WE BOTH PLACE ON CLOSE AND FRIENDLY
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE DISCUSSIONS GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPLAIN IN SOME DETAIL BOTH OUR DOMESTIC AND INTER-
NATIONAL POLICIES WHICH WE INTEND TO PURSUE.

JAMAICA IS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD, WITH A STRONG DESIRE TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY, IRRESPECTIVE OF SIZE OR NATURAL WEALTH, IT IS ENTITLED TO PURSUE A POLICY WHICH ENSURES ITS OWN SOVEREIGNTY.

THE SECRETARY AND MYSELF AGREED THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARED CERTAIN COMMON OBJECTIVES: WE ARE BOTH DEDICATED TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, TO THE PRESERVATION OF FREEDOM, TO RECOGNITION OF THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN CONDITION; AND WE BOTH DESIRE TO RELIEVE OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION WHEREVER THEY EXIST AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE. WE ALSO AGREED THAT WHILE WE RECOGNISE THESE OBJECTIVES WE WILL NOT NECESSARILY ALWAYS PURSUE THEM IN PRECISELY THE SAME WAY. EACH COUNTRY IS ENTITLED TO DETERMINE ITS OWN ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND EVOLVE ITS OWN SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS. BOTH SIDES RECOGNISED THAT THEIR INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED IF THE CLIMATE OF POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN WERE IMPROVED. IN ORDER TO NORMALISE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE, WE AGREED THAT A STATE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA WOULD HAVE TO BE RESTORED.

THIS REPRESENTS AN VINDICATION OF JAMAICA'S
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POLICY, WHICH SINCE 1972, HAS CONSISTENTLY RECOGNISED THE CRUCIAL NEED TO PERMIT CUBA TO TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS.

THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA IS PRINCIPALLY A MATTER FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES THEMSELVES, BUT JAMAICA STANDS PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS.

ON THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE, I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AN EARLY SOLUTION WHICH RESPECTED THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OF PANAMA.

WITH REGARD TO BELIZE, I POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTY OF FORMULATING A SOLUTION WHICH DID NOT RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THAT COUNTRY.

ON BILATERAL QUESTIONS WE COVERED A NUMBER OF

IMPORTANT SUBJECTS INCLUDING TRADE, TOURISM, INVESTMENTS, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS. I POINTED OUT TO THE SECRETARY THAT WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING A PRODUCTION PLAN WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, AND THAT THEREAFTER WE WOULD BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE WHICH IS REQUIRED. IN THIS REGARD IT WAS AGREED TO SET UP A JOINT TECHNICAL TEAM WHICH WOULD COME TO KINGSTON DURING APRIL WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING THE AREAS IN WHICH ASSISTANCE COULD BE MOST USEFULLY APPLIED.

IT WAS EMPHASIZED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT WE ARE DELIBERATELY PURSUING THE ROUTE OF SELF-RELIANCE, BUT THAT THIS CANNOT MEAN DENYING OURSELVES OF CRITICAL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. WHAT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANT IS THAT IT MUST BE COMPATIBLE WITH OUR OWN POLICIES: IT MUST ASSIST IN OUR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND MUST NOT PERPETUATE A STATE OF ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE.

ON GLOBAL ISSUES, I EXPRESSED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OUR TOTAL OPPOSITION TO DOMINATION AND THE PRACTICE OF APARTHEID. JAMAICA WILL GIVE SUPPORT TO ANY INITIATIVE AND ACTION WHICH ENSURES THE ERADICATION OF THESE SCOURGES.

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4462

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I ALSO HAD THE CHANCE FOR AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, MR. ANDREW YOUNG. WE REVIEWED A WIDE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND PARTICULARLY THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY, AND PARTICULARLY IN FORUMS LIKE THE UNITED NATIONS, TO CREATE A WORLD SOCIETY FREE OF ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION, AND WHERE THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DIGNITY ARE GENUINELY APPLIED AND NOT MERELY THE SUBJECT OF PIOUS EXPRESSIONS BUT OF REALITY.

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MR. MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL, ENABLED ME TO EXPLAIN OUR DECISION THAT WE WOULD NOT DEVALUE THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR, AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TO OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT DEVALUATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL OF SOME 23 PERCENT, AS THIS WOULD INCREASE PRICES, ESPECIALLY FOR FOOD, INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT AND WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE PLACED AN INTOLERABLE BURDEN ON THE MOST DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN THIS SOCIETY. THE MINISTRY OF
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FINANCE WILL, OF COURSE, BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURSUING OUR OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH IMF DIRECTLY.

I ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN PARIS. I POINTED OUT THAT FAILURE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN THIS CONFERENCE WOULD LEAVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN A STATE OF DESPAIR. THE RESULTANT FRUSTRATION WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL WELLBEING. THE UNITED STATES MUST HELP REKINDLE THE FAITH OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE BY THE PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT SECURE A BREAKTHROUGH.

THE TALKS WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CENTERED LARGELY ON SUGAR; DEALING WITH CARIBBEAN INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF BOTH QUOTAS AND PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES' MARKETS,

AND WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE WHICH IS DUE TO COMMENCE IN APRIL. WE BOTH AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A CHANGE FROM THE "BOOM AND BUST" PROCESS WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED AT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SWEETENER WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO REPLACE BEET AND CANE SUGAR IN SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF THE MARKET. THIS IS A MATTER WE WILL BE FOLLOWING CLOSELY.

APART FROM OFFICIAL CONTACTS, I ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE EDITORIAL BOARDS OF A NUMBER OF LARGE NEWS PUBLICATIONS IN NEW YORK AND IN WASHINGTON. THE INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS IS ALMOST OVERBEARING AND SOME SEGMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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IT HAVE SHOWN A MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO. I CANNOT, OF COURSE, SAY THAT MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM WILL RESULT OVERNIGHT IN A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE IN REPORTING ON JAMAICA, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE USEFUL AND SHOULD OVER TIME CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER APPRECIATION OF WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO IN JAMAICA.

I ALSO HAD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH BUSINESS-MEN WHO HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN JAMAICA AND PERSONS WITH AN INVESTMENT INTEREST. SIMILARLY, THERE WAS A SMALL INFORMAL MEETING WITH A GROUP OF NEW YORK INVESTMENT BANKERS.

A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF MY TIME WAS DEVOTED TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY SINCE THE UNITED STATES IS OUR PRINCIPAL MARKET. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAMAICA EXPRESSED THEIR "DESIRE AND EXPECTATION THAT TOURISM IN JAMAICA SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP, DRAWING SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND REFLECTING THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP TRADITIONAL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES."

IT WAS AGREED THAT A MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND PRESIDENT CARTER IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN HAND FOR A MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN GENERAL, I BELIEVE THAT MY VISIT WAS TIMELY, AND MY MISSION SUCCESSFUL. ALL THE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND

REFLECTED THE EARNEST DESIRE OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS DETERMINED, LIKE US, TO ESTABLISH THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

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MAY I END BY SAYING, MR. SPEAKER, THAT WHAT I HAVE SOUGHT TO DO IN WASHINGTON IS A PART - AND INEVITABLY A VERY IMPORTANT PART - OF OUR FOREIGN, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS. OUR CONTACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ARE WIDE RANGING AND OF LONG STANDING, AND GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH EXIST THEY WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IMPORTANT. WHAT IT IS NECESSARY TO RECOGNISE, HOWEVER - AND I WAS AT PAINS TO EXPLAIN THIS IN MY DISCUSSIONS - IS THAT WE WISH TO BROADEN OUR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS AND THAT THIS WILL ALSO BE A PART OF OUR POLICY FOR THE FUTURE. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES PROVIDED THEY RESPECT OUR INSTITUTIONS AND OUR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. I BELIEVE I CAN FAIRLY SAY FOLLOWING MY CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON THAT ALL OF THIS IS FREELY ACKNOWLEDGED. END QTE.
GERARD

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